GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:812
ANSWERED ON:07.02.2017
World Soil Day
Chavan Shri Ashok Shankarrao;Gaikwad Dr. Sunil Baliram;Gupta Shri Sudheer;Kirtikar Shri Gajanan Chandrakant;Radhakrishnan Shri T.;Singh Shri Kunwar Haribansh

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Soil Day was observed in 2016 in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken to achieve the aims and objectives of the event;

(c) whether any programmes were organised by the Government on this occasion and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to increase crop productivity and sustainable agriculture growth in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a) to (c): Yes, Madam. World Soil Day was observed on 5th December 2016 in the country. The aim and objective of the event was to spread awareness regarding importance of soil in crop production and utility of soil health card in increasing the crop production and saving fertilizers. The World Soil Day was organized at state headquarters as well as district / tehsil / block level. Events like deliberations, interactions, exhibitions and distribution of soil health cards to farmers were organized. The event was attended by farmers, government officials and public representatives.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) also celebrated World Soil Day through its various institutions and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs).

(d): The following steps have been taken to increase crop productivity and sustainable agriculture growth:
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(i) Government is implementing Soil Health Card Scheme with the aim to assist all State Governments to evaluate soil fertility in all farm holdings across the country and issue soil health cards to farmers. Soil health card provide information to farmers on nutrient status of their soil along with recommendations on appropriate dosage of nutrients to be applied for improving soil health and its fertility.

(ii) The other programmes / schemes being implemented to increase crop productivity and sustainable agriculture growth in the country include National Food Security Mission, Bringing Green Revolution in Eastern India, National Mission on Oil Seeds and Oil Palm, Mission on Integrated Development of Horticulture, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna, National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture and Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana.

(iii) ICAR is conducting research through various projects/ network projects/ Consortia Research Platforms for developing cost effective, eco-friendly, socially acceptable scientific farming practices to increase the farm productivity and sustained agriculture growth in the country.

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